

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, December 4, 2007
Ulster County Community College
Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:	Lynda Bertling	UC Public Works Department
	Barbara Budik**	Town of Saugerties
	Raymond Costantino	Town of Lloyd
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board
	Jean Gunsch	NYSDOT Region 8
	Nancy Hammond*	Town of Lloyd
	Toni Hokanson*	Town of New Paltz
	Peter Liepmann**	Ulster County Legislature
	Cynthia McGrath	NYS Thruway Authority
	Rich Peters**	NYSDOT Region 8
	Edward Pine	UC Public Works Department
	Cynthia Ruiz	UC Area Transit
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety
	Bill Tobin	UC Transportation Council
	John Zamurs	NYSDOT Main Office

Others

Present:	Charles Tutunjian	Creighton Manning Engineering
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*Permanent Voting Member

*Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2007)

**Voting Proxy for Permanent Voting Member

^Non-Voting Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 10:05 am.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

No Citizen comments were received.

APPROVAL OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE'S JUNE 5, 2007 MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from June 5, 2007 meeting.

Motion to approve by Ms Budik, seconded by Mr. Peters. All in Favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Tobin stated that the Safe Route to School (SR2S) application is due on April 1. Mr. Tobin handed out copies of the SR2S application to those in attendance. Mr. Tobin added that a meeting was scheduled tonight at the Ulster County Legislature Chambers to discuss the program in more detail. Mr. Tobin added that the program will be 100% federally not requiring a local match. Mr. Peters stated that this is the first year the funding is being made available. Mr. Peters added that by the time money gets divided there won't be much available. Mr. Doyle stated that the sidewalk project in Plattekill

has been identified as one of the priority projects in the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the project is located on Route 32 between Plattekill Post Office and the Orange County line.

Mr. Tobin handed out copies of the Year 2007 Traffic Monitoring Program Report. Mr. Tobin mentioned that this is the third year of the program. Mr. Tobin added that the 2008 counts will include towns in the eastern one third of Ulster County with exception of City of Kingston.

City of Kingston Intermodal Facility Site Location Analysis and Conceptual Design Analysis. Mr. Tobin stated that the consultant Wendel Duschere will be presenting the study effort with preliminary conclusions at the Policy Committee meeting on January 30. Mr. Tobin added that a public meeting has been scheduled at the City of Kingston City Hall Council Chambers at 6:00 pm on January 29. Mr. Doyle mentioned that a Kingston Intermodal Facility project is funded on the TIP for \$10 million and the design phase starts next year. Mr. Tobin added that the local sponsor for the project is yet to be decided. Mr. Doyle stated that the staff continues to be concerned about finding a viable location of the project. Mr. Doyle added that three locations have been identified as preferred but haven't been finalized.

Ulster County Integrated Advance Train Detection and Arrival Prediction Implementation Plan. Mr. Tobin stated that the Ulster County Traffic Operations and Public Safety (TOPS) Committee agreed on the alternative presented by the consultant, SYSTRA Engineering. Mr. Tobin added that SYSTRA is developing an implementation plan and the draft should be available by January 2008. Mr. Tobin added that there is funding on the TIP that could be used to support the project. Mr. Tobin also mentioned that a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grant opportunity may be a potential funding resource in addition/in lieu of Federal STP funds. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the concept of train arrival detection/prediction using this approach hasn't been attempted elsewhere in the Country. Mr. Tobin added that the project will detect trains in all parts of the County and predict its movement and arrival at different locations partially satisfying Federal safety, security and Congestion Management Process requirements. Mr. Tobin mentioned that the project will require the active participation of local emergency responders and the County Information Services Department. Mr. Tobin added that SYSTRA will be presenting the overall study with recommendations to the Policy Committee March 19, 2008.

Ulster County Non-motorized Transportation Plan. Mr. Tobin mentioned that there were a series of public meetings in October to gather additional public input. Mr. Tobin added that the consultant, Alta Planning and Design of Saratoga Springs, NY is currently developing detailed project design concepts for the top 15 capital projects identified. Mr. Tobin stated that a draft report will be released in late February or March 2008. Mr. Tobin stated that the project should be wrapped up by May 2008. Mr. Tobin stated that Jeff Olson from Alta will be presenting the overall study with recommendations to the Technical Committee on May 6, 2008.

Marlboro Hamlet Area Transportation Plan. Mr. Tobin mentioned that Ms. Lanzetta is the local project manager for the study effort and that Creighton Manning Engineering has been retained to assist with the project. Mr. Tobin added that a public meeting has been scheduled for January 17 at the Marlboro Middle School. Mr. Peters stated that NYSDOT, while short on staff, will try to send a representative to attend future meetings.

Mr. Doyle stated that there will be an effort to marry the two different transportation modeling efforts used by Ulster and Orange County. Mr. Doyle added that Ulster County uses TransCAD where as Orange County uses VISSUM. Mr. Doyle mentioned that there is a substantial amount of traffic in the Ulster County and Orange County border area. Mr. Doyle also added that with Port Authority taking over the Stewart Airport the traffic may increase. Mr. Doyle mentioned that Governor's office through its environmental division has provided \$500,000 of its planning money to Orange County to look at the smart grown initiatives associated with the expansion of the airport. Mr. Doyle added that the study includes Putnam and Dutchess County but omitted Ulster County. Mr. Doyle added that the Council will ask the Governor's office to include the towns of Plattekill, Shawangunk and Marlborough in southern Ulster County.

City of Kingston Uptown Stockade Area Transportation Plan. Mr. Doyle stated that the kick-off meeting was held on November 15, 2007. Mr. Doyle added that the project was requested by the City of Kingston to look at the Uptown Stockade Area in terms of sidewalk improvements and the traffic circulation. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the Kingston Daily Freeman wrote an editorial last week questioning the need to spend \$90,000 on the study. Mr. Doyle added that the editorial said that the City of Kingston would not implement the study even if it came to the right conclusions. Mr. Doyle added that the Council staff has chosen not to respond to the editorial. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the elected officials have been missing from the table with respect to the Uptown study in spite of the repeated requests to attend. Mr. Doyle added that the study has been programmed at the request of the elected officials and that the Council expects their time to help understand the study and implement the conclusions. Mr. Doyle stated that the important part of doing these studies is to have a program that can be implemented and funded to get a safe and efficient transportation system. Mr. Doyle added that you have to look out 20 years if you are going to make decisions with respect to investment of transportation system. Ms. Ruiz stated that editorial was contradictory. Ms. Ruiz added that although the editorial was critical, it identified many reasons why the study should be performed.

Ulster County Parking Facility Congestion Analysis and Need Assessment. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the study is part of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) for Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA). Mr. Tobin added that the completion date for the study is approximately January of 2008. Mr. Doyle stated that looking at the raw data, the utilization of most parking facilities in Ulster County has increased. Mr. Doyle added that the expansion of the New Paltz parking facility has been completed. Mr. Doyle stated that parking for Trailways at Dietz Stadium is established and being utilized.

Operating Procedures Review and Assessment. Mr. Tobin stated that there is a need to update the UCTC's Operating Procedure adopted in June of 2003. Mr. Doyle added that staff is working on the development of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and updating the UCTC Operating Procedures will be proposed.

Draft 2008 Meeting Schedule. Mr. Tobin stated that the draft meeting schedule is in the agenda packet. Ms. Hokanson mentioned that the meetings on third Tuesday of the month would be in conflict with the Ulster County Association of Town Supervisor meetings. Mr. Tobin stated he would revise the meeting schedule and resubmit to the Council.

TIP Update Information Seminar. Ms. Hokanson stated that the seminar schedule conflicts with the Ulster County Association of Town Supervisor meetings. Mr. Tobin mentioned that a new date will be selected. Mr. Liepmann suggested putting the UCTC meeting schedules on Google calendar for all to update and monitor.

FFY 2010-2014 TIP Update Process. Mr. Tobin stated that the TIP update process will be part of work program for next year. Mr. Tobin suggested discussing the need to improve the TIP update process. Mr. Peters stated that as part of the Transportation Act passed in August 2005, there were changes made to regulations. Mr. Peters added that for the new Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the Federal agencies had asked the MPOs for the project costs in terms of year of expenditure compliance. Mr. Peters stated that this has been taken care of for Ulster, Dutchess and Orange County MPOs. Mr. Peters stated that the one-month public comment period for the STIP ended on Friday. Mr. Peters stated that the TIP adoption date depends on the Federal government and could be December 5. Mr. Doyle mentioned that NYSDOT Region 8 and the UCTC had to certify the projects on the STIP. Mr. Tobin passed out copies of summary of the Federal aid process which was requested by Mr. Liepmann at the September 27 Policy Committee meeting.

Second Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Doyle stated that the financial report is included within the agenda packet.

Traffic Monitoring Program Update. Mr. Tobin stated that the 2007 Traffic Monitoring Program Report is complete. Counts are scheduled for next April/May 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ruiz mentioned that Mr. Schaller has been certified as the Ulster County bus safety examiner. Ms. Ruiz mentioned this will help Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) in terms of being in compliance with the state regulations for transit.

Proposed 2008-2012 TIP Amendment. Mr. Tobin stated that FFY 2008-2012 TIP was adopted on September 27, 2007. Mr. Tobin added that the scheduling of the County bridge projects on the TIP is inconsistent with the County's needs. Mr. Tobin stated that the bridge prioritization and programming process is outside the TIP Subcommittee decision making process. Mr. Tobin added that there was an exchange of correspondence between the NYSDOT Region 8 Local Projects Unit and Mr. Pine's office at the County Highway Department with respect to the prioritization and scheduling of bridge projects. Mr. Tobin stated that the County Highway Department wants the schedule to be amended to meet their needs. Mr. Peters mentioned that as part of the TIP update process, the Local Projects Unit solicits needs from the project sponsors about the scheduling of projects. Mr. Peters added that Region 8 has maximum of \$47 million a year to spend on 400 local projects. Mr. Peters added that they also look at the performance in the past to prioritize the projects. Mr. Doyle asked if there was a meeting between NYSDOT and the County Highway Department to discuss the issue and what the conclusion of the meeting was. Mr. Pine mentioned that following the discussion with NYSDOT, he would like to request modifications to the project schedule presented.

- PIN 875514, New Paltz Road/Conrail Bridge Rehabilitation, Town of Lloyd: Mr. Pine stated that there will be no change to the schedule presented on the TIP. Mr. Pine added that the county is moving along on the project.

- PIN 875620, Sawkill Road/Sawkill Bridge Replacement, Town of Ulster: Mr. Pine stated that there will be no change to the schedule presented on the TIP.
- PIN 875666, Mud Tavern Road (CR 9)/Dwaarkill Bridge, Town of Shawangunk: Mr. Pine stated that there will be no change to the schedule presented on the TIP. Mr. Pine added that as they move along they might decide to get the construction funds earlier. Mr. Tobin mentioned that shifting projects would require approval of the Technical Committee.
- PIN 875712, Glasco Turnpike/Plattekill Creek, Town of Saugerties: Mr. Pine asked for the construction funds to be moved to 2012 with obligation date of November 2011. Mr. Doyle mentioned that the project is being delayed due to the inability to deliver at the County level.
- PIN 875770, Hoagerburgh Road/Shawangunk Kill, Town of Shawangunk: Mr. Pine asked for design and right of way funds of \$0.142 million to be moved to 2011 with obligation date of November 2010.
- PIN 875771, Cape Avenue/Beerkill, Village of Ellenville: Mr. Pine asked for the design and right of way fund of \$0.111 million to be moved to 2011 with an obligation date of November 2010. Mr. Pine further requested for the design funds totaling \$0.100 million to be moved to FFY 2012 with an obligation date of November 2011.
- PIN 875797, Lake Road/Palmaghattkill Bridge Replacement, Town of Gardiner: Mr. Pine asked for the bridge project to be removed from the FFY 2008-2012 TIP because the project is complete.
- PIN 875879, Denning Road/East Branch of Neversink River Bridge Replacement, Town of Denning: Mr. Pine asked the obligation date for the project to be shifted to November 2009.
- PIN 875928 and PIN 875929, Boices Lane and Enterprise Drive Repaving, Town of Ulster: Mr. Pine asked for detailed design and right-of-way in FFY 2008 and the construction and inspection in FFY 2009.

Ms. Ruiz suggested the Committee accept the proposed amendments to the TIP contingent upon NYSDOT consensus. Mr. Doyle asked for the TIP Amendments proposed be forwarded to the Policy Committee for a final decision and NYSDOT consensus. **Motion to approve by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Mr. Liepmann. All in Favor**

Draft Resolution 2007-18: Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment. Mr. Tobin stated that the SAFETEA-LU Action Plan was adopted by Policy Committee in June of 2007. Mr. Tobin stated that SAFETEA-LU requirements had to be implemented by July 1, 2007.

Mr. Tobin added that in addition to addressing SAFETEA-LU requirements, congestion management and Mid Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA) was discussed. Mr. Tobin stated that financial forecasts within the Long Range

Transportation Plan needed revision. Mr. Tobin distributed a hand out to supplement the table in the Resolution. Mr. Peters asked that the match for Federal dollars needed to be shown.

Mr. Doyle asked for the Year 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendments with modifications to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for consideration. **Motion to approve by Ms. Hokanson, seconded by Ms. Hammond.**

Mr. Doyle asked whether there were any MPOs that do not program any local money within their Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Doyle added that he is concerned about writing a Long Range Transportation Plan that does not indicate the local need that can or cannot be met as it relates to safe and efficient transportation system. Mr. Peters suggested estimating the local needs but not showing it as an available resource that the Council programs.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Air Quality Restrictions Proposed. Mr. Doyle welcomed Mr. Zamurs from the NYSDOT Air Quality Analysis Bureau in Albany to discuss the air quality conformity issue that may affect Ulster County's future planning and programming responsibilities. Mr. Zamurs stated that the areas that are in non attainment under the Clean Air Act are required to undergo conformity. Mr. Zamurs stated that there are two standards for Ozone, the primary standards is based on public health, and the secondary standard that is based on public welfare. Mr. Zamurs added that the current acceptable standard for both primary and secondary is 0.08 parts per million (PPM). Mr. Zamurs added that the EPA has proposed to change the ozone standards and is looking at various options for primary and secondary standards. Mr. Zamurs added that the DEC monitoring station for Ulster County is at the Belleayre Mountain. Mr. Zamurs stated that the monitoring station at Belleayre is currently reading 0.076 PPM. Mr. Zamurs added that if the ozone standard changes to .075 or to .070 or lower, then Ulster County will no longer be in attainment. Mr. Zamurs added that Ulster County will very likely be in non-attainment soon. Mr. Zamurs mentioned that UCTC would have to have conforming TIPs and plans ready by June 2011 if Ulster finds itself in non attainment status. Mr. Zamurs added that Ulster County could be lumped together with Dutchess and Orange County. Mr. Zamurs advised having a travel demand model in place to address the issue. Mr. Zamurs stated that the MPOs rely on the web application and emission factor tables provided online by NYSDOT. Mr. Zamurs added that the conformity test involves running the model for a project. Mr. Zamurs stated that conformity is an intensive consultative process that involves the NYS DEC, FHWA, FTA and EPA. Mr. Zamurs added that once in non attainment, changes to the TIP cannot be made easily. Mr. Zamurs mentioned that small scale projects like intersection improvement, repaving is exempt from conformity. Mr. Zamurs added that except for NYMTC, other MPOs do not have full-time staff for the conformity process. Mr. Doyle thanked Mr. Zamurs for visiting with the Technical Committee to discuss this important issue.

OTHER/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Liepmann mentioned that the New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) restricts access to the Rhinecliff and Mid Hudson Bridges to bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Liepmann mentioned that he would like the Council to make a Policy statement that the NYSBA should be open to the bicyclist and pedestrian 24/7, 365 days a year. Mr. Peters suggested sending a letter to the NYSBA to check on their view on this issue before making a policy statement.

Mr. Tobin stated that the Unified Planning Work Program is under development and asked for suggestions. No suggestions were received.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.